

## REMARKS

Thorough examination of the application is sincerely appreciated.

Applicant wishes to thank the examiner for indicating allowability of claims 13 and 14 and allowable subject matter of claims 3 – 12 and 16 – 21.

Claims 1, 2 and 15 stand rejected.

To expedite the prosecution of the application and without conceding any statements or waiving any arguments in the Office Action, Applicant's claims are amended as follows:

Claims 2, 3, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16, 20 and 21 are canceled without prejudice. The allowable subject matter of claim 3 is incorporated into independent claim 1, thereby making claim 1 and all its dependent claims allowable. Similarly, the allowable subject matter of claim 16 is incorporated into independent claim 15, thereby making claim 15 and all its dependent claims allowable.

The remaining claims were amended to better conform to the current U.S. patent practice and/or address various informalities. No new matter was introduced. It is believed that the amendments to the claims did not address any issues of patentability.

The double patenting rejection of claim 1 was obviated by the amendment of claim 1 herein.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's correspondence and advance the prosecution of this case. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited. In the event there are any errors with respect to the fees for this response or any other papers related to this response, the Director is hereby given permission to charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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